



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Transportation Subcommittee

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Commission On Disability Issues' Transportation Subcommittee and to the general public that the Subcommittee will hold the following meeting which will be open to the public:

The Tucson Commission on Disability Issues Transportation Subcommittee held a meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2015, 3:00 p.m., in Conference Room B, at the Ward 2 Office, 7575 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ

Legal Action Report & Summary Minutes

1. Roll Call / Call to Order

The CODI Transportation Subcommittee Meeting was Called to Order at 3 p.m. on August 13, 2015 by Vice Chair Volner.

Present:

CODI Chair Keith Murfee-DeConcini – Mayor's Office Representative
CODI Vice Chair Rachael Volner – Ward 2 Representative

Guests Present:

Becky Pallack – Arizona Daily Star

Absent:

None

2. Appointment of Chairperson

It was moved by Chair Murfee-DeConcini, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 2 to 0, to appoint Commissioner Volner as Chair of the CODI Transportation Subcommittee.

3. Transportation Subcommittee Goals

Both members of the CODI Transportation Subcommittee agreed that the primary goal of the Subcommittee is to figure out what transportation issues are facing individuals with disabilities and ways to address those issues.

4. SunTran Strike

Subcommittee Chair Volner reported that, due to her association with *DIRECT Center for Independence, Inc.*, she had a working knowledge of how the SunTran strike is affecting individuals with disabilities.

CODI Chair Murfee-DeConcini looked up headlines regarding the strike and also mentioned how much public frustration was voiced over this issue at the last Mayor and Council meeting.

Subcommittee Chair Volner mentioned a report done by KVOA in which it was stated that the City could not get directly involved with strike negotiations. The issues of the strike, according to various sources referred to during the meeting (including the Arizona Daily Wildcat) were mainly these:

- A. Higher Wages
- B. Cesar Chavez Day as a paid holiday and
- C. Worker Safety

Not knowing how much involvement the City can have limits both the Transportation Subcommittee and CODI's involvement in the issue, Chair Murfee-DeConcini recommended that the Department of Transportation be contacted.

However, Subcommittee Chair Volner pointed out that CODI, and its related subcommittees fall under the jurisdiction of the Mayor and Council.

CODI Chair Murfee-DeConcini said that the best way to find out what (if any) action may be taken by the Transportation Subcommittee would be for him to approach the Mayor via either e-mail or in-person to ask the following questions:

- A. How involved can the City be in the SunTran strike negotiations and
- B. If City involvement in the negotiations is limited, what actions can be taken in order to assist both the disabled community and the general community of Tucson during this time?

CODI Chair Murfee-DeConcini said that he would take on the responsibility of asking the Mayor these questions. He hoped to report any answers he received at the next CODI meeting, which was scheduled for August 19, 2015.

5. Other Para-Transit Issues

a. **SunVan** – Sub-Committee Chair Volner reported that Sun Van seems to be fine. She did say that a SunVan driver told her that SunVans have driven by bus stops trying to help individuals affected by the SunTran strike.

She also mentioned that Council Member Cunningham was concerned about the idea of SunVan asking for another rate increase in the future. He and the Transportation Subcommittee members are opposed to this idea. In order to deal with the issue, the Transportation Subcommittee needs to develop a solution that will satisfy both sides. The Subcommittee will need to find out when the SunVan contract is set to expire to allow for a time-frame in which the Subcommittee can formulate a solution which must be submitted first to CODI and then to the Mayor and Council respectively for their approval, in order to avoid a situation similar to what is currently happening with SunTran.

Also brought up was the question of how SunTran and SunVan could operate as individual entities while being under the same “umbrella” of Transportation. No action was taken on this topic.

b. **SunLink** – CODI Chair Murfee-DeConcini reported that currently there were no pressing issues with SunLink to be addressed by the Transportation Subcommittee.

c. Construction Projects

Subcommittee Chair Volner said that she had attended a public meeting regarding the Broadway Improvement Project (Broadway between Country Club and Euclid) and that she received an e-mail update regarding the project which either proposed a final plan for Mayor and Council approval or had already been approved by them. If available, she will forward the information on to the City Clerk’s Office so that it may be given to any other interested members of the CODI Commission. She was not aware of any issues that the project was raising for individuals with disabilities at this time. She pointed out that *DIRECT Center for Independence, Inc.*, had been asked to give feedback on the project in the past.

6. Call to the Audience: THREE Minutes per Person

Becky Pallack addressed the Transportation Subcommittee primarily about the SunTran Strike. She did not offer an opinion on the issue, however, in regards to the questions raised by the Transportation Subcommittee about how involved the City could be on the issue, she offered to send the subcommittee members an article which might provide some insight. She was thanked and advised to send the article to the City Clerk’s Office, which could forward the information on to the appropriate members.

7. Future Agenda Items

- A. Sun Van Issues
- B. Sun Tran Issues
- C. Construction Issues/Problems

8. Adjournment

It was moved by Chair Murfee-DeConcini, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 2 to 0, to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 pm.